

Message Text

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02453 141634Z

51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 141520Z AUG 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3597

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 2453

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN EG US

SUBJECT UNSC DEBATE

1. CAIRO PRESS ON AUGUST 14 GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO AN ALLEGED STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR SCALI THAT HE WOULD VETO A RESOLUTION CONTAINING SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. AKHBAR CARRIED EDITORIAL ATTACKING STATEMENT AS AMOUNTING TO "AMERICAN PROTECTION OF INTERNATIONAL BANDITRY."

2. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE WE HAVE MADE SOME LIMITED PROGRESS IN PERSUADING MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND SOPHISTICATED EGYPTIANS THAT OUR LAST VETO WAS CAST IN INTEREST OF PRESERVING RESOLUTION 242 AS BASIS FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATING EFFORTS, BUT WE WOULD FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MAKE CREDIBLE DEFENSE OF ANOTHER VETO (OR, FOR THAT MATTER, ABSTENTION) IN CURRENT SESSION EVEN IF DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLED FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAS DEPLORED ISRAELI ACTION AS VIOLATION OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS FOR SUCH ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR WOULD SEEM EMINENTLY APPROPRIATE EVEN TO MOST REASONABLE AND SOPHISTICATED EGYPTIANS.

SECRET

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3. BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALSO KEEP IN MIND THAT A MAJOR UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL PROPOSAL, THE \$360 MILLION SUMED CONTRACT, WILL BE COMING TO EGYPTIAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN NEXT FEW DAYS OR WEEKS. ANOTHER VETO COULD SERIOUSLY

UNDERMINE OUR CHANCES OF RECEIVING THIS CONTRACT, AND
WE COULD ALSO LOSE THE SUBSTANTIAL FUTURE COMMERCIAL
SPIN-OFF IN FORM OF SUMED RELATED COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES
IN EGYPT AND ELSEWHERE IN ARAB WORLD.
WILEY

SECRET

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